South Africa Buoyed By OAU's Deadlock

By Stanley Uys
Manchester Guardian

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 15—Informed South Africans now believe that their troops have become a key factor in a new move by U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to try to pressure the Soviets and Cubans to leave Angola.

Commentators here say that South African troops probably will remain in Angola while Kissinger submits proposals to the Soviet Union to get the Soviets and Cubans out. This step, the South Africans believe was made possible by the unexpected show of strength by moderate African states at last weekend's Organization of African Unity meeting.

Afrikaans newspapers are saying that the refusal of 22 OAU members to recognize the Soviet-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Angola was "unbelievable," and that the split in the OAU puts the Angola situation in a new light.

An official newspaper of Prime Minister John Vorster's ruling Nationalist Party, the Transvaler, said today that the anti-Popular Movement members of the OAU "Have allied themselves by implication with South Africa in an anti-Communist bloc in Africa."

The state-owned radio said that the results of the OAU meeting have strengthened South Africa's policy of detente with black African states.

"Whatever may be wrong within our borders, the cause we are championing across them is good," a radio commentary said.

Another pointer to South Africa's intentions is the continued call-up of members of the active reserve for extended military training and service in the "operational zone." The call-up is unprecedented in peacetime.

South Africans who served in World War II and whose names were removed from the reserve list were notified this week that the removal had been an administrative error.

—Heartened by the OAU meeting, South Africa appears to believe the West can take a new look at the Angolan situation and make a renewed effort to salvage it.

News agencies reported:

—South Africa has refused entry permission to about half of a group of 2,500 refugees from Angola aboard a freighter and 22 fishing boats anchored off Walvis Bay, in South African-administered Namibia. Those who can prove they are Portuguese citizens will be allowed to land in order to board flights for Portugal.

—Ethiopia formally recognized the Popular Movement's government.

—Yugoslavia officially denied that Soviet aricraft bound for Angola have been flying across its territory. The United States had protested the alleged overflights.

—The Popular Movement government will seek planes and maintenance facilities from the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, after two purported deals with American aircraft companies were cut off under U.S. government pressure, a man who said he was a spokesman for the Popular Movement said in Rome.

Arslan Humbarachi said that the Popular Movement had paid for all of one plane and most of a second from Boeing when the State Department refused an export permit and that talks with McDonnell Douglas were cut off under U.S. pressure.

Washington Post
1/16/76